

# **Pinellas County**

*333 Chestnut Street  
Clearwater, FL 33756*



## **Minutes - Final**

**Thursday, June 16, 2022**

**9:30 A.M.**

**Budget Information Session**

**Palm Room, Clearwater**

**Board of County Commissioners**

**Budget Information Session**

*Charlie Justice, Chairman*

*Janet C. Long, Vice-Chair*

*Dave Eggers*

*Rene Flowers*

*Pat Gerard*

*Kathleen Peters*

*Karen Williams Seel*

**ROLL CALL - 9:30 A.M.**

**Present:** Charlie Justice, Chairman; Janet Long, Vice-Chair; Dave Eggers, Rene Flowers, Pat Gerard, Kathleen Peters, and Karen Williams Seel

**Others Present:** Barry A. Burton, County Administrator; Don Crowell, Chief Assistant County Attorney; and Shirley Westfall, Senior Board Reporter, Deputy Clerk

**1. Airport**

Referring to a document titled *Airport Summary*, Budget and Financial Management Analyst Charlie Jenkins, Office of Management and Budget (OMB), discussed the agency's purpose and provided an overview of the airport reserves, the terminal expansion project, and the Strawberry Parking Lot. Later in the meeting, he reviewed the budget expenditures and revenues and noted that the 5% budget increase is primarily driven by the repair and maintenance of Runway 18/36, which is required by the Federal Aviation Administration.

Airport Director Thomas Jewsbury provided an overview of the Airport's accomplishments, performance measures, and work plan highlights, including the terminal expansion plans, the regional stormwater plan, pavement maintenance costs, user fees, and an Airport Common Use Software; whereupon, he responded to queries by the members.

Budget and Financial Management (OMB) Analyst Andrew Brown reviewed the Capital Improvement Program highlights for the Airport.

**2. Convention and Visitors Bureau**

Budget and Financial Management Analyst James Abernathy, Office of Management and Budget, reviewed the Convention & Visitors Bureau's (CVB) purpose, budget summary, and change request summary.

CVB Director Steve Hayes discussed the 2022 accomplishments, performance measures, and the Capital Program; whereupon, he and Messrs. Abernathy and Burton responded to queries by the members.

Discussion ensued, and Mr. Burton related that he would set up a meeting with the appropriate entities in regard to promoting and funding cultural arts in Pinellas County.

**3. Economic Development**

Budget and Financial Management Analyst John Ondrovic, Office of Management and Budget, referred to a document and reviewed the department's purpose and budget summary for Economic Development and the STAR Center, noting that no user fee changes are being proposed for 2023.

Economic Development Director Dr. Cynthia Johnson appeared virtually and discussed the 2022 accomplishments, performance measures, and work plan highlights for the Innovation Center and the Star Center; whereupon, she responded to queries by the members.

Mr. Burton indicated that a related governance model will be further reviewed and explored.

**4. Pinellas Planning Council (Forward Pinellas)**

Budget and Financial Management Analyst John Ondrovic, Office of Management and Budget, referred to a document titled *Forward Pinellas* and reviewed the agency's purpose, fund balance, budget summary, and proposed millage rate increase.

Forward Pinellas Executive Director Whit Blanton introduced Operations Manager Rodney Chatman and discussed the need for the increased millage rate; whereupon, several members expressed concern and disapproval of a millage increase.

**5. Housing & Community Development**

Referring to a document titled *Housing and Community Development*, Budget and Financial Management Analyst John Ondrovic, Office of Management and Budget, discussed the department's purpose and budget summary, and related that no user fee changes are being proposed for 2023.

Housing and Community Development Director Carol Stricklin provided information regarding the department's accomplishments, performance measures, and the work plan, noting that a food access study in under served communities will be conducted in 2023.

Responding to a query by Commissioner Flowers, Division Manager Bruce Bussey related that information regarding the constructed or renovated affordable housing units is not placed on the performance measure reports until the units are completed and sold; whereupon, Ms. Stricklin provided information regarding federal grant funding.

In response to a query by Commissioner Seel, Mr. Burton indicated that utilizing consultants instead of hiring Planning staff would add specific expertise and significantly reduce the amount of time to complete projects; whereupon, Ms. Stricklin indicated that changes in staffing would not affect the Zoning Division, noting that additional resources will be provided.

**Meeting Recessed: 12:10 P.M.**

**Meeting Reconvened: 12:42 P.M.**

6. Building & Development Review Services

Mr. Burton introduced the new Director of Building and Development Review Services (BDRS) Kevin McAndrew; whereupon, Office of Management and Budget Director Chris Rose related that BDRS is recommending changes to permits and user fees as required by County and State laws; that House Bill 423 will go into effect July 1, 2022; that recruiting and retaining staff has been a challenge; that the implementation of an E-Permit Hub will incur additional costs, disruptions, and delays; and that the fee structure between Building Services and Development Services will continue to be reviewed.

Mr. Burton commented on the challenges of having vacancies in all County departments and the efforts taking place to create process improvements; whereupon, Mr. Rose reviewed FY23 Decision Packages and the budget summary.

Mr. McAndrew reviewed the department's accomplishments, performance measures, and work plan for FY22 and FY23; whereupon, he responded to queries by the members, with input from Mr. Burton, Contracting Licensing Director Michelle Krickovic, and Assistant County Administrator Tom Almonte.

7. Contractor Licensing Department

Office of Management and Budget Director Chris Rose indicated that Florida House Bill 735 becomes effective July 2023; that Accela software implementation has been rescheduled for Fall 2022; that the number of citations and transactions has decreased; and that there are no user fee changes proposed for FY23.

Contracting Licensing Director Michelle Krickovic reviewed the FY22 accomplishments and responded to queries by the members.

8. Office of Management & Budget

Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Analyst Cecilia McCorkell reviewed the department's purpose and indicated that the organizational study for OMB has been concluded; that OMB is in the process of procuring a consultant to redesign the annual budget; that the department will create a pilot train-the-trainer program; and that employee retention continues to be a challenge. She reviewed the budget summary and responded to queries by the members, with input from Office of Management and Budget Director Chris Rose.

Mr. Rose reviewed accomplishments, performance measures, and work plan highlights for the department.

**Meeting Recessed: 1:54 P.M.**

**Meeting Reconvened: 2:06 P.M.**

**9. Public Participation Guidelines**

Attorney Crowell introduced Assistant County Attorney Keiah Townsend, who referred to a document titled *2022 Public Comment & Decorum Guidelines Update*, and pointed out potential changes to the public participation guidelines, such as speaker's address requirements, time allotted to speak, and document submission; whereupon, she and Managing Assistant County Attorney Amanda Coffey answered queries by the members.

Discussion ensued, and Attorney Crowell stated that a resolution will be created to adopt the policy.

**10. Agenda Briefing**

Referring to the proposed agenda of the June 21 BCC meeting, Mr. Burton and his staff, along with Attorney Crowell, provided information on the agenda items and responded to queries by the members.

**ADJOURNMENT - 2:51 P.M.**